

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 14932 180737Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 121577

R 180442Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6120

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L S A I G O N 1 4 9 3 2

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 17

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON AUG 17 ACTION EMBASSY  
SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L N H A T R A N G 0 7 7 5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 17

1. SECURITY SITUATION: WAR CONTINUED ONLY SLIGHTLY ABATED  
IN THE FOUR NORTHERN PROVINCES OF MR 2, WHILE THE SOUTHERN  
PROVINCES REMAINED GENERALLY CALM. TOTAL OF 39 INCIDENTS  
REPORTED IN LAST 48-HOUR PERIOD: 14 IN KONTUM, 13 IN BINH  
DINH, SIX IN PHU YEN, THREE IN PLEIKU, AND THREE IN BINH  
THUAN. PREPONDERANCE OF INCIDENTS REPORTED AS ENEMY ATTACKS  
BY FIRE (27) WHICH WERE GENERALLY FOLLOWED BY RVNAF COUNTER-  
ATTACKS; REMAINDER OF INCIDENT COUNT INCLUDED SIX ENEMY  
GROUND ASSUALTS, FIVE MININGS AND ONE SUCCESSFUL PF SEARCH  
OPERATION. CASUALTY AGGREGATES: VC/NVA: 56 KIA, TWO  
CAPTURED; RVNAF: 23 KIA AND 45 WIA. THREE CIVILIANS WERE  
KILLED AND 16 WOUNDED BY ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIONS DURING  
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 14932 180737Z

THE PERIOD; ALL BUT ONE OF THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES OCCURRED

AUGUST 15 WHEN VC MINED AND THEN ATTACKED A PASSENGER TRAIN TRAVELING FROM TUY HOA TO HNA TRANG. FOUR RF WERE ALSO WOUNDED IN THIS INCIDENT, WHICH OCCURRED IN SOUTHERN HIEU XUONG DISTRICT, PHU YEN. TACTICAL AIR MISSIONS INCREASED MARKEDLY OVER THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD: THERE WERE 46 ON AUGUST 15 (38 IN BINH DINH AND 8 IN PLEIKU) AND 36 ON AUGUST 16 (28 IN BINH DINH, 4 IN PHU YEN, AND 4 IN KONTUM).

2. THE KONTUM POLITICAL OFFICER REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 14 A BATTALION-PLUS OF THE ARVN 45TH REGIMENT WAS EXPELLED FROM THE TRENCH-LINE JUST EAST OF TRUNG NGHIA, WHICH THEY HAD OCCUPIED AUGUST 9-10. ONE BATTALION OF THE 45TH AND ONE OR TWO COMPANIES OF A SECOND BATTALION ARE STILL HOLDING THE POSITION AGAINST HEAVY ENEMY SHELLING.

3. WE REMAIN POORLY INFORMED ON RANGER ACTIVITY SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY. GVN REPORTING OF THE MAJOR ENGAGEMENT ON AUG 11 INVOLVING 22ND RANGER BATTALION CONTINUES TO BE FUZZY, BUT WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE ENEMY CASUALTIES REPORTED AUG 13 SITREP ARE OVER-STATED AND THE RANGER "VICTORY" FICTITIOUS. THIS WOULD JIBE WITH THE KONTUM POLITICAL OFFICER'S REPORT THAT THE RANGER MOVEMENT NORTH TOWARD KONTUM CITY HAS BEEN REPULSED, THOUGH RANGER UNITS HAVE NOT ENTIRELY LEFT KONTUM PROVINCE. DURING THE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THE ENEMY FROM HIS DEFENSE OF TRUNG NGHIA, THE RANGERS CAME IN CONTACT WITH AT LEAST TWO NEW NVA BATTALIONS APPARENTLY COMPOSED OF ELEMENTS OF OLD UNITS WHICH HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE AREA.

4. PROV REP TUYEN DUC REPORTS THAT SOME 20 ARMED VC RECENTLY ENTERED PHU SON VILLAGE, TOLD THE NATIVES THAT PHU SON WAS PRG TERRITORY, AND THE COMMUNIST ELECTIONS WOULD SOON BE HELD. THE VC REPORTEDLY PROMISED TO DISRUPT THE GVN AUGUST 26 SENATE ELECTION BY MEANS OF ARMED ATTACKS.

COOK  
MARTIN

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